

Message Text

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62

ACTION SS-30

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FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4305
INFO USMISSION NATO

S E C R E T REYKJAVIK 205

EXDIS

DEPT PLEASE PASS TO COMICEDEFOR, CINCLANT AND SECDEF

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MARR IC NATO

SUBJECT: IDF RETENTION NEGOTIATIONS: FIGHTER INTERCEPTOR
SQUADRON

REF: REYKJAVIK 185

1. GEIR HALLGRIMSSON, CHAIRMAN OF INDEPENDENCE PARTY (PRO-IDF) ADVISED ME IN CRYSTAL-CLEAR, UNMISTAKABLE TERMS YESTERDAY THAT HIS PARTY, WHICH CONTROLS 22 ALTHING VOTES, WILL NOT TOLERATE WITHDRAWAL OF FIGHTER INTERCEPTOR SQUADRON (FIS) IN ANY USG-GOI BASE NEGOTIATIONS. HE REMINDED ME THAT THE BASIS OF HIS PARTY'S SUPPORT OF IDF WAS "DIRECT DEFENSE OF ICELAND" OF WHICH SUBMARINE SURVEILLANCE WAS A PART AND THE FIGHTERS WERE A PART. HE SAID HE COULD NOT DELIVER FULL PARTY SUPPORT FOR IDF ISSUE WHEN ALTHING VOTE COMES IF WE MATERIALLY REDUCE DIRECT DEFENSE OF ICELAND.

2. HALLGRIMSSON'S EMOTIONAL VISIT TO ME OCCURRED AFTER HE MET WITH FONMIN AND ANALYZED FONMIN'S IDF PROPOSAL (SEE REFTEL) WHEN HE DISCOVERED PROPOSAL DOES NOT INCLUDE KEEPING THE FIS.

3. I TOLD HALLGRIMSSON THAT FONMIN'S OVERALL PROPOSAL IS ILLOGICAL, ETC., AND THAT USG COULD NOT ACCEPT IT IN ITS PRESENT FORM, BUT WE WERE ASSURED, AS WAS HE, BY THE FONMIN THAT THE PROPOSAL WAS ONLY A BASIS OF DISCUSSION AND NOT AN ULTIMATUM.

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I ALSO REMINDED HIM, AS HE ALREADY KNEW, THAT FONMIN WAS HAVING DIFFICULTY OBTAINING APPROVAL WITHIN GOVT FOR HIS PROPOSAL AND THAT WHEN SOMETHING IS ACTUALLY SUBMITTED TO US, IT MAY BE QUITE DIFFERENT. I TOLD HIM THAT USG WILL NOT AGREE TO ANY PROPOSAL

THAT JEOPARDIZES ICELAND'S SECURITY. I ALSO SUGGESTED HE MIGHT
CONTINUE TO TRY TO MAKE THE GOVT'S PROPOSALS ON IDF MORE REALISTIC
THAN WE HAVE HEARD SO FAR.

4. COMMENT: HALLGRIMSSON IS CORRECT IN SAYING THAT ANY DEROGATION
OF "DIRECT DEFENSE OF ICELAND" WILL LOSE USG SOME SUPPORT WITHIN
HIS PARTY. IT WILL ALSO LOSE SUPPORT IN OTHER PARTIES AS WELL.
WE NEED THE FULL 22 VOTES OF THE INDEPENDENCE PARTY AS WELL AS
OTHERS TO OBTAIN A FAVORABLE AGREEMENT FROM THE ALTHING.
IRVING

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDEES.

SECRET

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